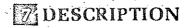
Troim No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN DETHE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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3 CLASSIFIC					
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATU S	,	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED		X_AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	XUNOCCUPIED		COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS		EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
XSITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION			ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED		GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
•	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO		MILITARY	OTHER;
OWNER OF	PROPERTY				
NAME. Jo	hn Vanier				
STREET & NUMBER					
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___EXCELLENT

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CHECK ONE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Diamond Spring is located on a Morris county ranch about 15 miles southwest of Council Grove. The spring is a few feet south of an interior ranch road near the bottom of a westward facing slope.

Originally the Santa Fe trail passed a short distance to the north of the spring and the whole area was open and grass covered. Now a great deal of brush and undergrowth (and snakes) are found in the immediate spring vicinity. For many years the spring has not had the original appearance and beauty as described by travelers on the Santa Fe trail. Where the spring once flowed freely; it is today enclosed in a circular concrete coping. Although the viewer cannot see it gushing or bubbling forth, the spring still flows and the water leaves the concrete cistern through iron pipes and runs down the hill to the creek. Two sheets of corrugated metal are placed over the concrete enclosure to prevent debris from falling in.

Up the slope to the east of the spring is a commemorative marker placed in 1907. The legend on the stone has been almost erased by the elements and the marker, too, is in the midst of heavy brush.

The spring can be reached only by following a ranch lane road almost a mile to the ranch house and yard and then proceeding from the yard down an incline to the north and west along the ranch road.

If the concrete coping and the iron pipes were to be removed, it should be possible to restore the former appearance of the spring.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	•
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPȚURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	X_COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION .
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		
SPECIFIC DATES 1820's - 1870's BUILDER/ARCHITECT				

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From the 1820's to the 1870's one of the most significant land routes in the United States was the Santa Fe trail, which had two-thirds of its length in Kansas. William Becknell's first successful trade ventures to Santa Fe in 1821 and 1822 opened the way for other entrepreneurs. So many had become involved in the Santa Fe trade by 1825 that the federal government began to survey and mark the trail. The location of water sources helped to determine the route.

Diamond Spring was one of the most widely known camping sites along the Santa Fe trail. Located 15 miles west of Council Grove, it had the three necessities for overland

travelers: a plentiful supply of good water, grass and timber.

The spring was discovered on August 11, 1825, by "Old Ben Jones," a hunter with the U. S. Surveying Expedition. According to the report of George C. Sibley, one of the three commissioners appointed by the President to mark the road from Missouri to Santa Fe, he had named it "The Diamond of the Plain" and caused that name to be carved on a nearby elm tree on a return visit in 1827. Sibley wrote the following:

"This spring gushes out from the head of a hollow in the prairie, and runs off boldly among clean stones into Otter creek, a short distance—it is very large, perfectly accessible, and furnishes the greatest abundance of most excellent, clear, cold water—enough to supply an army. There is a fountain, inferior to this, in the Arabian Desert, known as 'The Diamond of the Desert.' This magnificent spring may, with at least equal propriety, be called 'The Diamond of the Plain.'"

Many of the travelers, soldiers, traders and others using the trail who kept diaries and journals or later wrote accounts of their trips recorded their stop at Diamond Spring and the plentiful supply of clear, cold water. These records begin with the members of the surveying expedition of 1825-1827 and include a number of men with the Doniphan Expedition of 1846, as well as others. One observer noted that on July 5, 1846, the temperature in the shade was 87° while the spring water was 54°.

All the printed guides to the Santa Fe trail included Diamond Spring and identified it as a good camping ground. It was regarded as one of the few places where travelers could find shelter from the elements, particularly in winter.

Later a stage station was established near the spring, and there is record of a small store at the place in 1861. Foundations of these structures were still visible in 1907 when a D. A. R. commemorative marker was dedicated.

Still later a rancher installed a ram in the spring to supply running water for the ranch house and barn up a rise to the southeast. The concrete coping and some of the pipes, long useless, still remain. The spring flows but the beauty noted by Joseph Brown, George Sibley and others is gone.

Diamond Spring has long been recognized as an important landmark on the Santa Fe

trail.

[1] MAJOR BI	BLIOGR PHICAL	REFERE	NCES			·
Historical Connelley, Will: Conquest of	iam E., ed., "A Journa <u>Review</u> , v. 12, no. 1 iam E., <u>War</u> with <u>Mexic</u> <u>f Mexico</u> and <u>Californa</u> sA Famous Spot on th	(June, 19 20, <u>1846-1</u> La (Topeka	25), pp. 7 847; <u>Donip</u> , Kan., Cr	2-98. han's Expedition ane and Co., 19	on and the 007), pp. 61	9-634.
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FORM PR	EPARED BY					
<u> </u>	Richard D. Pankratz,	Director,	Historic	Sites Survey DATE		
ORGANIZATION	Kansas State Histori	cal Societ	:'y	12/5/75		
STREET & NUMBER			<u> </u>	TELEPHONE		
CITY OR TOWN	120 West Tenth Stree	t		(913) 296- STATE	-3231	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	IFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS I	VCLUDED IN T	THE NATIONAL	REGISTER DATE		
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN. OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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PAGE I

Diamond Spring

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9

6.

Advisory List to the National Register of Historic Places

1969

Federal

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Washington, D. C.

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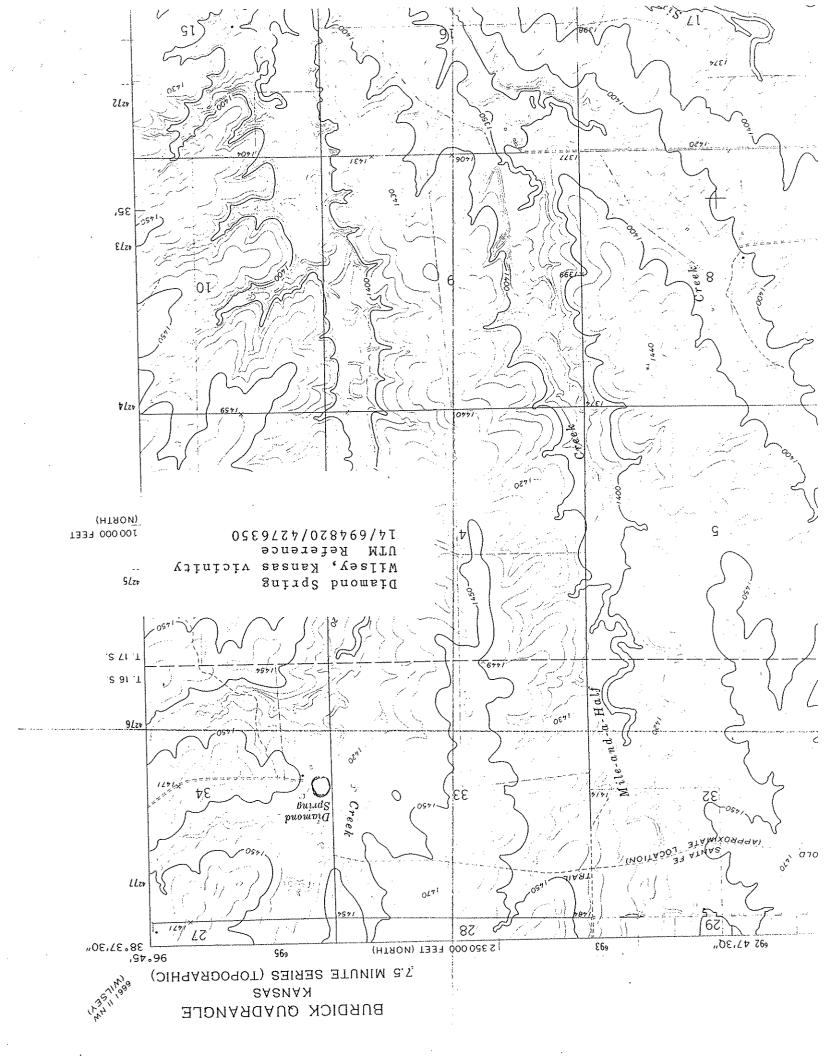
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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

UNI DISTATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY				
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE			

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

DIAMOND SPRING

Attn: Steve Livingood

In response to your telephone call of May 3, 1976, concerning Diamond Spring, we have checked the file for justification of the five acres of the nomination. Five acres would not be of sufficient size to include the reported area of the trail ruts to the north of the spring. The file shows that our original draft of the form had indicated one acre. At this time it is only speculation as to why the number was raised to five. After reviewing the map, it would be agreeable to us to reduce the acreage to one-two.

Richard Pankratz Historic Sites Survey

May 3, 1976